

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, November 8. 1707.

I Am now entred upon a narrow Search of the secret Contrivances, the Engines, Mines and Machines, prepar'd and made up to overthrow the Peace, and disappoint the Success of this present Parliament; and if possible, to embroil and distract their Councils.

Forging the Whigs into Parties one against another, is the first I have insisted on, as I am satisfy'd, it will be the first that will appear upon the Stage; and if what I have said upon that Head, is not sufficient to move us in that Case, I confess, I am at some Loss, I hardly know what to subjoyn; for nothing can be added to Arguments taken from our own Safety, and Precedents both to move and encourage.

But I come now to a second Attempt, which is, and will be made upon us; and that is to suggest, raise Clouds and Scruples, Fears and Jealousies, in the Minds of the People, ay, and if possible, of their

Representatives about the late, great and mighty Transaction between the two Nations; I mean, *The Union*.

Lamentable Stories are told on one side, and on the other, and the Wine and Brandy, &c. is expected to make a great and a troublesome Scene in the Beginning of the Matter; whereas on one hand some complain the Union is invaded, and others that the Trade of England is invaded—I doubt not, but Parliamentary Wisdom will heal this Matter, and crush the early Hopes, which are form'd on the side of our Enemies, to set us together by the Ears about Explications, Constructions, and Application of the Articles; but before I come to the Point, let me divert you among more melancholy Reflections, with a Story that has something merry enough in the Moral of it.

Among the several Ships, which in the late tempestuous Weather have met with

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Disasters at Sea, there is one lately cast away, at or near *Yarmouth*, belonging to *Leith*, and bound for *Scotland*—This Part of the Story has nothing in it, but what is common to all that Trade in the frequent Strifes, between the convertible Elements of Wind and Water; but that which makes up the Story, is this.

1. This Ship is the first that has been lost in the Trade between the Nations, since the late Conjunction and Freedom of Commerce.

2. And which compleats the ominous Part, She was call'd **THE UNION**.

How natural was it now for our old Women Southsayers, Listners to bad News, Dreamers of Dreams, and Observers of Circumstances and Connections, to make work with this! O the Union is shipwreck'd, the Union is split on a Shelf, the Union is broken to pieces, the Union is run a-Ground, the Union is lost in a Storm, the Union is blown away, and the like.

I confess, I can laugh, as we say, but on one side of the Mouth, because as ill as I can bear Losses, I have a Loss in her my self; but who can forbear making a little Mirth with the slegmatick Constructions of these wise People.

If the Union must be broken, every Time any thing call'd by its Name meets with a Disaster, it would be a good Piece of News to our *High-Flyers*—But Thanks be to **GOD**, the Union is past the Power of Omens; Dreams, Allegories and Similes can do nothing now, 'tis too late to prophetic evil Tidings upon it; nothing can dissolve this Union, but something that must untie the very Bands of the Constitution of *Britain*.

But to talk to these Dreamers of Dreams, these Collectors of Circumstances, and Observers of Signs, the Union was shipwreck'd and lost—Well, Gentlemen, the Hull of

the Ship indeed was stranded, but the Goods and the Men are all safe; now 'tis the Cargo makes the Voyage, and the Men direct the Ship; the Ship is but the Instrument, the passive Shell in which the Goods and Lives are encompass'd, and this may be broken to pieces, and those be preserv'd safe, put into another Vessel, and perform the Voyage.

And now let us apply the Tale—The Union is ship'd on Board the Vessel of mutual Policy in both Nations; it is steer'd by the Statesmen and publick Persons on both sides—Ye may, Gentlemen, be run on Shoar by the Storms and Tempests of faction Divisions and private Emulations; and **GOD** grant ye may ride it out: *High-Flying* Winds, Court-Hurricanes, and the Tornadoes of Party-Fury, may run you a-ground, and ye may split, fall asunder, and be starr'd to pieces by the Waves of this *Lee-Shore*.

But as to the Cargo, which is the Union, never fear it, that will be safe, the Goods are secure; and if your Scheme of Management, which is the Ship, should be broken, another Ship must be had, a new Vessel must be built, and the Voyage will go forward *well enough*, never fear it, the Union is safe; nay, if it had no Ship at all, if it was left only to the wide Sea and rude Waves, it would receive no Damage; it is so wrapt about with the Sear-Cloth of the Law, and lies within so many Folds of Constitution-Rights, that no Water would come at it; it would swim like a Cork, and bearing up all the honest Mariners that had done their Endeavour to still the Storm, and to allay the Fury of Parties, they shall sit safe upon it in the midst of this troubled Sea of Division, and at last drive whole and undamaged into the Protection of the calm Harbour of just Government: And so much for Omens and Allegories.

MISCELLANEA.

IN order to make Good, what in the other Part of this Paper I have alledg'd, *Viz.* That in this Parliament several Attempts will be made upon us, as to the Union, I must take up this Part of the Paper a while, with an Instance or two.

The *Rehearsal*, a Paper calculated for these Uses, has open'd the Scene, and made Way for a Dispute, which I am very free to engage in, and which I think, brings Matters to the shortest Head of Debate, that we ever yet came to—*Viz.* Whether these

there may not be a Union of Happiness, of Peace, and of Interests in this Nation, without a Union of Principles.

I did not purpose to have given Mr. *Rebearsal* any more Trouble of this Kind, to presume, He and I may come to talk of this Matter hereafter.——Not am I in a suited Distance at present to answer, reply, and rejoy in any reasonable Time, especially his Paper being not seen in this Place: But to set him right in a few Mistakes, which he is pleas'd to make, and to prevent the Worlds being impos'd upon, I must have a Word or two with him upon this Point.

He has been very forward to amuse the World with a Project, as he calls it, form'd by the *Dissenters* against *Episcopacy* to pull it down.——And this he argues, because I have said, they can by no Means comply with it.

I have already said, and I think 'tis plain, that such an Inference is falsely drawn, and I think, this reduces the Question to a shorter Room, than ever it was brought before.

He says, a Union of Principles is the ONLY TRUE Union, *Rebearsal*, N^o. 229.

I say, a Union of Principles having appear'd impracticable, a Union of Affection, a Union of Civil Policy, a Union of Peace and Interests, may yet be formed among us without it, to clear up People's Heads from mutual Jealousies, undivide them as to Parties, and make us one Nation.

On this Point I challenge him to debate calmly and sedately, without shifting, false Construction, false Quotation, &c. and with good Language as becomes him; and if he can maintain, that a Union of Principles is the only Union that can make us happy, I'll acknowledge, and lay down: If not,

I'll undertake to prove, that a Union of Interests and Affection may be had without it, and that in such a Union, the Nation, the Government, the respective Churches both of *England* and of *Scotland* may be separately Happy and Secure.

This now, Mr. *Rebearsal*, is making short Work of a long Debate, and bringing all the Questions into a narrow Compass.

To make Way for this, I do readily acknowledge all he makes so much of, *Viz*. That 'tis my Opinion, the *Dissenters* can never come in to own *Episcopacy* in its pre-

sent Hierarchy.——What have they dissent'd for? ——Abatements have been talk'd of, and I have often said, had the Church made Abatements, they would have drawn off great Numbers, and weaken'd the Dissenting Interests.——But the Body of *Dissenters* cannot comply with *Episcopacy*; That is the present Case.

On the other hand, the Church cannot abate *Episcopacy*, and there stands the whole Debate.

Now is there no Medium, between not complying with *Episcopacy*, and resolving to pull it down by Force of Arms?——Are all the *Dissenters* in the mere Nature of the thing Plotters, Rebels, and sworn Fighters against *Episcopacy*; certainly some Medium may be found out, something may interpose, and some Peace of Interests may be made, and there lies the Question.

This is, what Her Majesty has labour'd for in her repeated Calls, to Party-Peace and Union among ourselves; and this is, what the Union with *Scotland* means, That with Boundaries to every Party, Banks and Buttresses of the Law, which the Civil Power is engag'd to maintain, may be set up, and each Party resting secure under the Protection of a Legal Settlement, we may obtain that Happiness in a Union of Interests, and an Eternal Suppressing of Party-Strife, which cannot otherwise be hoped for; the Union of Principles being impossible, and not to be expected.

In order to come to this Debate closely, and without Circumlocutions, I must entreat the Gentlemen on the other side to desire Mr. *Rebearsal*, to quit the unfair Method he takes to carry on his Argument, *viz*. Giving the Act and Deed of one Party, as the Act and Deed of another, and couching the Meaning of plain Words under his own manifestly injurious Glosses.——And that I may make this out to be his Practice;

1. I desire him to tell the World fairly, that the Address, which he has printed, N^o. 225, and which he gives as a Test of the Disposition of THE PRESBYTERIANS in *Scotland*, was really and bona Fide only the Address of Mr. *John Hepburn*, and a few weak, rash People under him, Seven at most, who neither own the Church of *Scotland*, nor the Government of *Scotland*; and which said, Mr. *Hepburn* is Deposed by the Church for those very Opinions, which Mr. *Rebearsal*